

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope apparatus comprising:

a scope in which a solid image pickup element is mounted and in which a metal member is provided as a sheath;

a processor device having a grounded housing, to which the scope is connected and which executes signal processing;

~~wherein a static-electricity-suppressing part~~ a surge absorber which is provided between ~~the~~ said sheath metal member of said scope and said processor device housing ground and which is arranged to said scope; and

wherein said sheath metal member ~~as the sheath~~ is composed of a ring-like metal member ~~including an angle ring~~ in an insertion section, a metal member comprising a metal frame in an operation section, and a ring-like metal member in a cable section, said metal members being electrically connected together; and

wherein said sheath metal member of said scope is connected to said processor device housing ground via a shield box in a scope-side connector circuit section.

2 - 3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope apparatus comprising:

a scope in which a solid image pickup element is mounted and in which a metal member is provided as a sheath;

a processor device to which the scope is connected and which executes signal processing; **and**

~~wherein a static-electricity-suppressing part~~ a surge absorber which is provided between ~~the~~ said sheath metal member of said scope and a ~~patient-side~~ patient-side circuit ground and which is arranged to said scope;

wherein said sheath metal member as the sheath is composed of a ring-like metal member ~~including an angle ring~~ in an insertion section, a metal member comprising a metal frame in an operation section, and a ring-like metal member in a cable section, said metal members being electrically connected together;

wherein said patient-side circuit ground is a ground terminal in the patient-side connector circuit section.

5 - 8. (cancel)

9. (new) An electronic endoscope apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein an outer shield covers signal lines and is connected to said shield box.

10. (new) An electronic endoscope apparatus according to claim 4, wherein an outer shield covers signal lines and is connected to a shield box in a scope-side connector circuit section.